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Ample Hills employee Caroline Glass shows off the ice cream shop's one-of-a-kind "Swap-O-Matic" machine.

Free trade

Unique vending machine swaps trash for treasure

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

There's take penny, leave a penny — and now there's take an Aladdin DVD, leave some Band-Aids.

A Prospect Heights ice cream parlor is revolutionizing the act of barter with the Swap-O-Matic, a vending machine styled like a 1950s automat that lets patrons trade their trash for treasures (or, depending on

your taste, more trash).

The machine, which operates at Ample Hills Creamery on Vanderbilt Street, is meant to comment on consumerism, but it has come to address recession-era economics, according to the machine's inventor, Lina Fenequito.

"It's more about American consumption than it is about saving money, but it's kind of aping

See **SWAP** on page 5

SLOPE'S SPEED BUMP

Some say proposed speed limit is dangerous — for other nabes

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope residents who want the speed limit reduced think "twenty is plenty" — but Greenwood Heights neighbors say not so fast.

Some Park Slope parents and civic leaders want the city to draw up a special "slow zone" that would reduce the speed limit from 30 to 20 miles per hour on Sixth and Eighth avenues between Flatbush Avenue and the Prospect Expressway.

They hope the new speed limit would make the streets safer for kids and pedestrians, but Greenwood Heights residents fear the plan will turn their hood into a

racetrack for cars playing catch-up.

Supporters — some of whom tout the motto, "Twenty is plenty!" — say it would greatly reduce cut-through traffic from Prospect Park West and prevent crashes.

"Given all the kids we have in this neighborhood, it's a good idea," said Eric McClure of Park Slope Neighbors. "The area is ripe for it."

But that worries neighbors south of the Prospect Expressway, who say time-crunched drivers will be more likely to



A new plan would lower the speed limit by 10 miles per hour on Sixth Avenue in Park Slope — but Greenwood Heights neighbors worry it will morph their streets into a freeway.

step on the gas and drive recklessly once they leave the "slow zone."

Greenwood Heights activists claim drivers heading south on Sixth Avenue already speed up once they cross the Prospect Expressway and hit a five-block stretch between 20th and 25th streets with no stop signs.

"It's already treacherous," said resident Sarah Raskin. "This would divert unsafe driving from one neighborhood to another."

At least three cars have crashed on Sixth Avenue near 23rd Street in the past year, including one driver who smashed into the

See **SPEED** on page 2



Are Prospect Park's geese facing a new danger?

PARKS' GOOSE BUSTER

Wildlife biologist to start job 'managing' waterfowl

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

A shadowy goose buster will begin a high-paid city gig next week — 18 months after the bird expert's former employer slaughtered hundreds of waterfowl in Prospect Park.

A wildlife biologist poached from the United States Department of Agriculture is scheduled to begin "managing" waterfowl near airports in early February for the city's Department of Sanitation.

Job duties for the four-year

post, which pays \$175,000 annually, include counting geese and other birds, installing "anti-perching devices" and using high-tech sound frequency tools to scare the feathered creatures away, according to a spokesman for the Department of Sanitation.

The agency did not respond to direct questions about whether the biologist's duties include killing geese — like when the new hire's previous employer rounded up more than 200 waterfowl and gassed them in the name of aviation.

See **GEESE** on page 2

New evidence in fatal cyclist crash

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The family of a cyclist killed by a truck driver in Williamsburg says newly obtained surveillance videos and police documents prove the man behind the

wheel should be held responsible.

Erika Lefevre, whose son Mathieu died when a flatbed truck ran him over on Morgan Avenue last October, says new the information her family received after suing the NYPD for accident re-

ords shows the driver likely knew he hit something and the police department botched the investigation by failing to preserve key evidence or take photos at the scene.

"This driver is reckless and danger-

ous and should be held responsible for the harm he caused," said Erika Lefevre. "The NYPD should take its responsibility to investigate crashes more seriously."

The documents and security foot-

See **CRASH** on page 6



City workers chopped down rotting trees and tossed the wood into the park's lake.

Wood gets chunked

Prospect Park lake turned into lumber dumpster

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

The city axed more than half a dozen tree houses in Prospect Park in an attempt to save a delicate lakeside ecosystem — but then tossed the lumber into the water, creating a whole new environmental no-no, environmentalists allege.

To prevent a small colony of homeless people from living inside rotting trees, the Parks Department deployed forestry workers to chop down the sickly arbors on the east side of the lake and turn them into mulch.

But workers instead dumped at least two of the trees into the already-fragile



urban watercourse — a move that could threaten aquatic life in the lake by knocking oxygen levels out of whack.

"Excessive nutrients [from trees] can lower oxygen levels and kill fish," said John Gross an ecologist with the National Park Service.

The tree trunk dump-and-

See **TREES** on page 5

City says: Dam it!

How this inflatable croissant could keep sewage out of our waterways

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The city hopes inflatable dams will keep millions of gallons of raw sewage from pouring into Brooklyn's waterways, offering a potential remedy to an environmental woe that raises a stink everywhere from the New-

town Creek to the Gowanus Canal.

The Department of Environmental Protection put two croissant-shaped blow-up dams in sewers in Williamsburg and Vinegar Hill in an attempt to prevent nearly two million gallons of household waste and stormwater

from entering the East River when wastewater treatment plants are overburdened in heavy rain.

Some environmental activists hope the \$15.7-million pilot program is a sign the city is getting serious about so-called combined

See **DAM** on page 6



The city has installed two new inflatable dams underneath sewer lines in Williamsburg and Red Hook.



Sweet and sour

What's wrong with Chinese food in Brooklyn? This week, GO Brooklyn investigates. (Above) Manager Joeski Houghton shows off juicy pork dumplings at M. Shanghai, which may not be the most authentic Chinese in the borough, but serves up soup dumplings and hand-pulled noodles to the Williamsburg masses with aplomb.



Whole Foods hopes to open a store that looks something like this on Third Avenue and Third Street in Gowanus.

'Whole' food fight

New foes for big-box market

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

A coalition of manufacturers and artists launched an eleventh-hour attack against a plan to open a massive Whole Foods in Gowanus, claiming the purveyors of all things organic would destroy a blossoming industrial neighborhood that's fast becoming a hub for creativity.

Dozens of artsy types and factory owners urged an obscure-but-powerful city planning board to reject the upscale market's bid for a White House-sized shop on Third Avenue and Third Street on Tuesday, saying the space is better suited for the manufacturing and creative industries.

"New York City has enough

See **WHOLE** on page 6

Human train tracker

'Coffee' helps commuters catch the subway

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

The MTA is spending hundreds of millions installing countdown clocks at subway stations, but one Ditmas Park entrepreneur provides the same service for just a cup of coffee, a half-smoked cigarette, a few bucks, or nothing at all.

Coffee the Train Man, as he is known around the Cortelyou Road Q train station, makes his living as the human version of Penn Station's big board, notifying hustling commuters when the next train is departing.

"Let's go down there, let's go!" Coffee yells from the sidewalk above the outdoor station, letting straphangers know when he sees the light of an approaching train on the tracks below. "Manhattan Q train coming!"

Commuters pick up their



He drinks 14 cups of coffee every day, but that's not why we're writing about him.

a cup of coffee.

Many subway riders stop to greet Coffee before they enter the station, where he holds court every day from 4:30 am to 8:30 am.

"It's very nice and helpful — especially for my mother," said Isabelle Lafosse on her way to work.

"He lets you know how much time you have — in case you have anything you need to do before going into the station."

Coffee says the free cigarettes and the 14 cups of coffee he drinks on the job are its main perks.

There's also the salary.

"People give the tips — I never ask," said Coffee, who lives at the Park Slope YMCA. "I really hope everybody makes the train."

The tips, which can add up to more than \$100 over a ten-and-a-half-hour day including jaunts at two Manhattan subway stations, are his main source of income.

See **COFFEE** on page 5



Kenn Lowy owns the Brooklyn Heights Cinema and he wants to keep the movie house open if he can.

Watch this space

Heights fights to save old Henry Street cinema building

By Kate Briquet
The Brooklyn Paper

Preservationists are rallying to save the Brooklyn Heights Cinema from the wrecking ball, claiming the squat Henry Street building contributes to the neighborhood no matter its use.

"Everybody loves the little cinema, but if even if it were a fast food restaurant I'd be saying the same thing," said Judy Stanton, executive director of

See **CINEMA** on page 5

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Boro’s bachelor pad

Bay Ridge is chock full of single men, city says

By Dan MacLeod
The Brooklyn Paper

If you’re looking for a man, Bay Ridge is a buyer’s market. The neighborhood once famous for its swinging discos and vibrant party scene is also a veritable meat market of young eligible bachelors with one of the city’s highest ratios of single men to single ladies, according to a new study.

For each single woman between the ages of 20 and 34, there’s somewhere between 1.26 and 1.73 men vying for her attention, according to the number crunchers at the city’s Economic Development Corporation.

Those numbers are great for women, but for men, the highly competitive dating scene means only the strong survive (and find a nice young lady to bring home to mom).

“It’s like Darwinism — you’re fighting two other guys just to get a girl,” said Mike Nelson, whose dating woes forced him to seek love on the distant shores of Staten Island. “It’s hard to date because it’s a fairly big neighborhood, but everybody knows each other. You’re hard pressed to date someone that your high school friend hasn’t already dated.



Community Newspaper Group / Kate Briquet

City statistics indicate that Bay Ridge has one of the borough’s highest ratios of single men to single women. That didn’t deter Tom Losito, Jordan Burmeister, Kyle Campion and Mike Zanfardino from looking for love at the Salty Dog on Third Avenue.

You’re outnumbered three to one.”

When we stopped by the Third Avenue watering hole the Salty Dog on Saturday night, we found a crush of dudes fighting for the affection of a limited number of women.

“There’s too many guys around,” said Paul Browne, a 26-year-old math teacher who drives a Toyota Corolla. “They get in my way.”

Others said that they had actually given up on the Ridge, looking for love in all the wrong places — like in that other borough, Manhattan.

“This is not an area where a lot of new people can jump into dating,” said Kyle Campion, a 24-year-old financial analyst. “I tend to go out in the city instead where there’s more [single ladies] to choose from.”

The outlook is rosier for women, who say it’s easy to find the right guy — or three or four.

For Krystina Macca, a Bensonhurst speech pathologist who says she’s dating “a few people,” the biggest problem with Bay Ridge men is that they’re just too arrogant and aggressive.

“When guys are very

cocky and into themselves that’s big turn off,” she said. “When you go into a bar in Bay Ridge, they kind of attack you. Their eyes are glued to you and they rush over to you to buy you drinks. It’s annoying.”

Macca says guys can stand out from the pack by just toning it down a little.

“[Just] be nice and sweet and genuine — sometimes it’s nice to just have a conversation with another person,” she said.

To win a Bay Ridge woman’s heart, suitors can avoid crowded spots like Trace Restaurant or Cebu Bar & Bistro, choosing quieter lounges like Delia’s on Third Avenue between 92nd and 93rd streets, or Fushimi on Third Avenue between 93rd and 94th streets, she suggested.

Times might be tough for Bay Ridge men, but it’s a different world just a few subway stations away. Single women outnumber single men in neighborhoods including Park Slope, Red Hook, Downtown, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights and Flatbush — and in Brownsville and East New York, the ratio is nearly inverted, according to Census data analyzed by the city.

— with Kate Briquet

SPEED...

Continued from page 1
Greenwood Cemetery in September, according to the Concerned Citizens of Greenwood Heights.

An only-in-Park-Slope speed limit reduction would exacerbate the problem, neighbors fear.

“Park Slope shouldn’t be so myopic in its approach to safety,” said Aaron Brashear of the Concerned Citizens of Greenwood Heights. “Here’s one neighborhood that’s not being sensitive to another.”

The Park Slope Civic Council held a meeting on

Saturday to gauge support — within the neighborhood — for the proposed “slow zone.” President Michael Cairl said the group has not yet decided whether it will request the speed limit reduction from the Department of Transportation by the city’s Feb. 3 deadline.

In other areas with 20-mile-per-hour speed limits, including one in the

Claremont section of the Bronx, traffic engineers have tried to get motorists to cut their speed by narrowing the roadway, building speed bumps and adding street markings.

Any community board or civic association can apply for a “slow zone” — including the ones in Greenwood Heights — city officials say.

GEESE...

Continued from page 1
tion safety back in 2010.

Park devotees now fear the city’s new worker is a sign their feathered friends are doomed, especially considering that staffers with the same title working with the wildlife biologist’s previous employer in other cities have trapped, tracked and killed

birds with guns to keep waterfowl populations down near airports.

“I just hope the city does the right thing and makes use of other methods,” said wildlife advocate Mary Beth Artz, who last year organized a rally to save the geese in Prospect Park.

Other goose boosters

contend that the city’s bird control methods just “harass geese,” causing flocks to separate during migration — potentially increasing local populations of birds that would otherwise return to nests outside the city.

“It is the perfect example of overkill,” said park watchdog Anne-Katrin Titze.

A spokesman for the city was mum about the biologist’s name and title at the federal agency. But he last

year explained a “panel of technical experts” — aviation officials among them — stressed the need for the new job position in the wake of the so-called “Miracle on the Hudson” landing, which occurred after waterfowl collided with an airplane.

Prospect Park’s feathered residents should be safe at least until molting season this summer, when authorities have the legal right to kill them.

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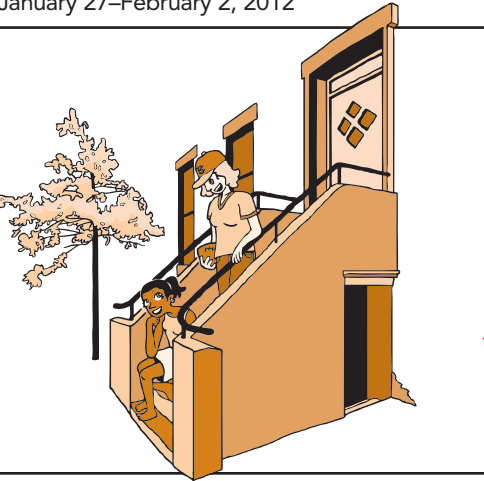
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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG



Diane Park tries to cross the street as a truck barrels down Kent Avenue.

A safer Kent

New stoplights headed for W'burg waterfront

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Three new traffic lights will tame Kent Avenue in Williamsburg, slowing motorists and cyclists while protecting pedestrians who are beginning flock to the neighborhood's burgeoning waterfront, city officials say.

Department of Transportation workers will put stoplights and countdown clocks along Kent Avenue at N. Fifth, N. Sixth, and N. Seventh streets in May in an attempt to stop trucks, cars, and bikes from careening into crossing walkers.

Community Board 1 members, who have pushed the city for several years to slow traffic on Kent Avenue, called the measures an "amazing victory."

"It is long overdue and will do a lot to increase safety — for both pedestrians and cyclists — along the Kent Avenue corridor," said Community Board 1 Transportation Committee member Ryan Kuonen, who works off Kent Avenue.

The traffic change is the latest adjustment to the street, which is a truck route and the city's second-most popular bike path.

In 2009, the city converted Kent Avenue into a one-way, northbound street while eliminating hundreds of parking spaces in a controversial plan that polarized residents.

But between 2008 and 2010, bicycle traffic on the street surged 64 percent during weekdays and 324 percent on weekends, from 269 to 1,141.

That happened as pedestrians began swarming to the waterfront and its parks as several condominiums towers filled up with residents and new attractions including food fairs, summer concerts, and ferry service debuted.

The flood of new residents and activity around Kent Avenue forced public officials to push the city to make changes.

"For too long, crossing Kent has been simply harrowing," said State Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Williamsburg). "These traffic signals are an important step toward protecting residents and all users on Kent."

Residents who live on the waterfront say the signals will make a difference.

"The cars rush by here with no care for pedestrians, especially at night," said Diana Park. "It will add another level of safety."

And Bobby Kim says the lights and signals will make using Kent Avenue safer for both cyclists and pedestrians.

"Sometimes it takes seven to eight minutes to cross the street when there are a lot of cars," said Kim. "And there are always children and pets running around. Now it will be better."

GREENPOINT

McGolrick Park market watch

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Veggie-loving North Brooklynites are trying to put the green in Greenpoint.

Residents of the borough's so-called "garden spot" want to see a new farmers market in McGolrick Park this spring and have started circulating an online petition to fertilize community support.

The petition emphasizes that the community deserves a Sunday gathering place "where neighbors can

come together to meet, shop, and engage with one another, as well as with our area farmers and food makers."

Nearly 200 residents added their signatures to the online petition as of Tuesday night, six days before market advocates will present their proposal to Community Board 1's parks committee.

But in order for a market to open, GrowNYC, which runs dozens of greenmarkets throughout the city including one in McCarren Park and

FORT GREENE

General Greene fights back

Restaurant owner recovers stolen espresso machine

By Kate Briquelet
The Brooklyn Paper

Thieves snatched a fancy espresso maker from the General Greene last week under the cover of darkness, but the owner of the high-end Fort Greene eatery hunted it down himself the next day.

Charles McMickens, the proprietor of the DeKalb Avenue restaurant, was devastated when some goons broke into his coffee kiosk on Jan. 19 and made off with a brand-new \$5,000 espresso machine just 48 hours after the debut of the morning mud stand next to his eatery.

"It was shocking and took us completely by surprise," he said. "But we were determined to start again."

McMickens reported the crime to police after a barista came to work and found the booth facing Clermont Avenue had been busted open.

The crooks got away with the espresso boiler, a grinder valued at \$1,200, a brewer that cost \$500, and a refrigerator.

But as one would expect



Michael McCabe, chef at the General Greene, proudly stands with his restaurant's high-end grinder — a fancy piece of machinery that was stolen, but recovered by the eatery's owner last week.

from a man who named his restaurant after a Revolutionary War hero, McMickens didn't admit defeat.

"I took a day of mourning, and the next morning I

collected myself," he said. "I had an idea where the thieves might unload equipment like that."

McMickens found half of his loot at his first stop, an

Atlantic Avenue restaurant supply company. The fridge and brewer had already been resold, but he put a deposit on the goods until police arrived to retrieve them.

McMickens said that the burglars — who were recorded on a nearby business's security camera — couldn't have been coffee drinkers because they sold their spoils for only \$125.

"It's a sign of the times," said Michael McCabe, a chef at the locavore hotspot. "Why take a bunch of heavy coffee equipment? It's strange no one saw it."

The General Greene will begin serving its Counter Culture joe again in two weeks — after workers make the java fort more secure.

"It's a bad news, good news story," McMickens said. "It's a good omen. The gods must be shining on us."

The General Greene [229 DeKalb Ave. at Clermont Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 222-1510]. For info, visit thegeneralgreene.com.

DOWNTOWN

Co-ops battle historic district

'Skyscraper' residents say cost of living will skyrocket

By Kate Briquelet
The Brooklyn Paper

A controversial new historic district Downtown is sailing toward approval despite outcry from residents, businesses, and the borough's most powerful landlords, who fear it will hurt commerce and raise the cost of living.

Locals are furious about the city's plan to preserve nearly two-dozen early-1900s towers along Court Street in the so-called Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District — a plan that earned the backing of Councilman Steve Levin (D-Brooklyn Heights) and cruised through the Council's landmarks committee



This tower at 16 Court Street would be covered by the proposed Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District.

with a vote of 4–0 with two abstentions on Tuesday.

The city says the new district will help keep history alive, but some tenants at 75 Livingston St., the only residential building in the district, say all it will do is make their lives more difficult.

"This is a stupid, stupid mistake!" said Paula Ingram, a real-estate broker who lives in the 32-story co-op. "It's going to negatively affect the business community and all it will do is save a few lintels."

In recent months, co-op members and business groups have amped up their campaign against the "Skyscraper" zone, claiming that the intricate rules of landmarked districts would cause maintenance fees to soar and prevent commercial growth.

The Real Estate Board of New York even mailed flyers to local homes, warning that the preservation effort would "send Court Street back to the bad old days if we don't act now."

"This is another case of the city landmarking away its economic future," said Steven Spinola, president of the Real Estate Board, adding that Downtown is already scrambling to find tenants with vacancy rates are hovering around 17 percent.

The district comprises 21 buildings along Court Street between Montague and Livingston streets, including the already-landmarked Borough Hall; the 13-story Tem-

ple Bar Building on Court Street; the 35-story Montague-Court Building at 16 Court St.; and the Municipal Building, which will soon be transformed into a mini-mall.

Levin and Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope), chair of the landmarks committee, said in a statement that the district would boost development "while preserving the graceful, historic, early-generation skyscrapers that make it Brooklyn's civic center."

They said that they'd ask the city to ease rules for storefronts and work with Livingston Street residents "without imposing hardships on the co-operators."

But those co-op dwellers hope to persuade lawmakers to nix the plan altogether.

"If [Levin] doesn't protest now and hold off his vote when he has some leverage, what do you think he'll be able to do once this goes through?" said Maxine Rockoff, a longtime resident of 75 Livingston St. who is demanding that the Landmarks Preservation Commission disclose statistics on any added costs that the owners of landmarked buildings must pay.

"I'm terrified that this will pass," she said. "[The Council] is our only protection against menacing government intervention."

The proposed landmark district will go before the full council on Feb. 1.



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Cops: Party planner scammed by landlord

78TH PRECINCT Park Slope Crashed bash

A slimeball allegedly stole thousands of bucks from an event planner using his 11th Street building on Jan. 20. The victim told cops that she arranged to rent a warehouse — advertised as “Facespace” on Craigslist — near Second Avenue to throw a party with DJs at 8 pm. She paid the landlord \$3,850, but cops later told her the venue is not properly licensed for dance parties. She cancelled the bash — but the slimy landlord made off with her money, cops said. Cops said they arrested a suspect the same night. **Fashion police** Police say a man tried to swipe a jacket from a home on

Flatbush Avenue on Jan. 21. The victim told cops that she left a black jacket in the hallway of her apartment building near St. Johns Place. She heard a noise outside of her door at 10:45 pm. She peeked into the hallway and spotted a man running off with her coat — so she chased him into street and snatched it back. Cops arrested a man the same night. **Pink elephant** A scoundrel swiped thousands of bucks worth of jewelry on 12th Street on Jan. 20. The 31-year-old victim told cops that he left his abode near Eighth Avenue at 8:30 am. When he came back at 7 pm, he discovered the lock on his door had been changed. A locksmith let him inside — but he then discov-

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

ered that \$1,200 worth of his girlfriend’s jewelry, including an elephant pin and charm bracelet, was gone. **Chain snap** A jerk snatched two laptops from an apartment on Union Street on Jan. 19. The 38-year-old victim told cops that he left his home near Fourth Avenue at 9:30 am. When he returned at 7:45 pm, he discovered that his door was locked from the inside — with a chain he never uses. His lights were on, which made him suspicious, so he broke the chain, busted through the door, and found two laptops worth \$1,700 gone. **Rotten Cherry** A jerk snatched a purse from a bar-goer on Fourth Avenue on Jan. 21. The 35-year-old victim told cops that she hung her purse on a hook under the bar at Cherry Tree near Bergen Street at 12:45 am, then spotted a woman in a white coat walk out with it — along with the credit cards inside. **iPhone swipe** A quick-moving thief stole a cellphone from a strap-hanger on a 2 train on Jan. 20. The victim told cops that she was holding her phone

as the train pulled into the Grand Army Plaza station at 10:30 am. That’s when the man grabbed her black iPhone from her hand and ran off the train. — **Natalie O’Neill**

77TH PRECINCT Prospect Heights Purse pull

A sneaky thief stole a woman’s purse from a wine shop on Vanderbilt Avenue on Jan. 19. The victim told cops that she put her purse behind the counter of Wine Exchange, which is between Dean and Bergen streets, at 3 pm. But 15 minutes later, someone stole it and ran out the door. **Sunburned** A crafty crook stole thousands of dollars of electronics from a new restaurant on Vanderbilt Avenue on Jan. 19. The owner of the Sunburnt Calf, which is between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue, told cops that he left his MacBook and iPhone on a table in the restaurant when he went to use the bathroom at 10:15 am. When he returned five minutes later, he discovered the Apple products were gone. — **Eli Rosenberg**

84TH PRECINCT Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown What the F?

A thief stole a woman’s iPad on an F train on Jan. 22. The strap-hanger told cops she was on a Carroll Gardens-bound train at 11:20 am when the crook grabbed the device and fled at the Bergen Street station. **Armed affront** Gun- and knife-wielding bandits held up a Front Street clothing boutique on Jan. 16. A clerk said the first crook entered the store near Jay Street at 5:25 pm, brandished a knife and said, “Don’t cause a scene, there are people outside.” Before he could respond, a second man came in with a gun and demanded he empty

the cash register. The terrified worker handed over \$100, and the crooks took off. **Glass ceiling** A thief smashed through the skylight of a Clinton Street home and stole a violin, laptop and camera on Jan. 18. The homeowner told police she left the house near State Street at 8:45 am. When she returned at 7 pm, the skylight was broken and the items were missing. **Stick-em-up** Three teens were arrested for a gunpoint robbery on Remsen Street on Jan. 18, according to cops. Police said the alleged crooks stopped a man between Henry and Clinton streets at 1:55 pm, pointed a gun at his head and demanded he hand over his cash and house keys. The victim complied, and the thugs ran away. Cops arrested three men who they claim had the stolen goods later that day. **Wendy’s mug** Four thugs jumped a man in front of the Wendy’s on Fulton Street on Jan. 20. The victim told cops he was standing outside of the fast food restaurant near Pearl Street at 4:45 pm when the gang attacked, grabbed his backpack, and fled. **Home invaded** Police say two men were arrested for breaking into a Pacific Street home on Jan. 16. The alleged home invaders entered the apartment between Nevins Street and Third Avenue at 1 am, rousing its occupant. She called the police, who showed up and arrested the men. **Thief foiled** A crook attempted to steal a woman’s pocketbook on a Queens-bound A train, but was repelled by his would-be victim. The woman said the thief tried to grab her billfold as the train pulled into the Jay Street station at 6:15 pm, but she was able to fend him off and he fled the train car empty-handed. **Gym rat** A crook swiped the contents from a gym locker on Front Street on Jan. 22. The victim told cops he locked his cubby at the gym

Rapes on rise in N. Bklyn

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The number of rapes reported to police in Williamsburg and Greenpoint skyrocketed last year — and North Brooklyn residents fear recent attacks against women are a sign the terrifying trend is continuing into 2012. Rapes nearly tripled in 2011 in Williamsburg’s 90th Precinct, where perps committed 23 rapes compared to eight the previous year, and in Greenpoint’s 94th Precinct, where attackers committed three rapes compared to one the year before. This year got off to a foreboding start when an assailant grabbed a woman on Maspeth Avenue at 4 am on New Year’s Day, pulled her into a parking garage, and raped her, police said. The next day, a man dragged a woman between two cars on Withers Street and beat her with a stick, causing four stitches, according to a witness. The Withers Street attack wasn’t a rape, but it left neighbors frightened — leading cops from both precincts to call a meeting last week to discuss the crimes. “We don’t want to keep these things hidden, because people need to protect themselves,” said 90th Precinct Deputy Inspector Michael Kemper. Kemper tried to calm the crowd at the



Cops say this man committed a Jan. 1 attack.

early this year, most recently nabbing taxi cab driver Gurmeet Singh, who allegedly picked up a 26-year-old woman on May 6 and raped her at knife point inside his vehicle. Police sources say the victim knew the perpetrator before the attack in more than two-thirds of cases in Williamsburg and all of the cases in Greenpoint — making it even harder for officers to prevent. “Unfortunately there isn’t much that we can do to stop these types of crimes,” a Greenpoint cop told The Brooklyn Paper.

68TH PRECINCT Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights Girly goons

Two knife-wielding dames mugged a woman on Fifth Avenue on Jan. 16. The victim said she was near 84th Street at 4 pm when she was approached by the duo. One of them brandished a knife and pressed it to the victim’s throat before taking \$515 from her and fleeing. **Wallet diving** A goon pilfered a woman’s car on Fort Hamilton Parkway on Jan. 16. The victim said she parked her car near 68th Street at around 11:30 pm and returned at 3:30 am to find her passenger-side window smashed and her wallet, which contained credit cards and a driver’s license, missing. **Register heist** A crook stole cash from a business on Third Avenue on Jan. 16. The owner said the thief forced his way through the front door of the business between 76th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway sometime after 11 pm, grabbing a cash register containing \$280. The register itself was worth \$500. — **Colin Mixson**

88TH PRECINCT Fort Greene–Clinton Hill Intruder

A grifter stole a Pratt student’s wallet and iPod from a classroom on Willoughby Avenue on Jan. 17. The victim told police that she left her purse at a university building near Hall Street at 2:30 pm. When she returned a half hour later, her billfold containing \$320 and the Apple device were gone. A classmate saw a stranger dip into the room — a sneaky act that was caught on camera. **OyPhone** Cops say a teenager plucked the iPhone from a woman’s hands on Lafayette Avenue on Jan. 18 as she looked up directions on her cell. The victim told police that she was near Clinton Avenue at 9:06 am when the scoundrel yanked her cellphone and shoved her to the ground. Cops say that they cuffed a 15-year-old suspect, recovering the fancy phone that day. **Tire away** A thief lifted the tires from a Cadillac on Downing Street on Jan. 16 as its owner was asleep. The victim told cops that she parked near Gates Avenue at 9 pm. When she returned early the next morning, the wheels of her 2011 Escalade were gone and her doors were scratched. **Quick study** A sneaky thief stole a PS 11 teacher’s wallet from her classroom on Waverly Avenue on Jan. 18 as she picked up students from the cafeteria. The victim told police that she left her room in the building near Gates Avenue at noon — hiding her billfold in an unlocked desk. But when she returned 15 minutes later, the wallet — containing \$200 and a Victoria’s Secret card — was missing. **Freewheelin’** A thief boosted a luxury sedan from S. Oxford Street on Jan. 14. The victim told cops that he parked near DeKalb Avenue at 7 pm. When he returned the next afternoon, his \$38,000 Audi Q5 was gone. — **Kate Briquetel**

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‘Roots’ for the win

Community Roots charter to move into PS 287

By Kate Briquetelet and Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

A popular charter school is moving into Fort Greene’s PS 287, thrilling parents who want another education option in the neighborhood but dashing hopes of the public elementary school’s own proposed expansion.

Only three of the 13 members on a Department of Education panel voted against Community Roots Charter

School’s plans for a new middle school on Wednesday, paving the way for sixth-graders to begin classes in the Navy Street building this September.

“We are so excited about Community Roots expanding and we think it’s an important addition to the choices in the neighborhood,” said Department of Education Deputy Chancellor Kathleen Grimm.

But parents at PS 287 say the decision punctuates years

of unfair treatment by the city, which has forced them to share space with charter schools like the Khalil Gibran International Academy, which is slated to move out, while repeatedly nixing their own attempts to add a middle school.

“PS 287 is already a great school where they’ve been moving schools in and out for years,” said Sean Kershaw, whose son is a second-grader at PS 287. “I’m

worried [the charter school] will take over some of the school’s facilities.”

City officials insist the building has enough room for both schools.

Anti-charter school parents far outnumbered Com-

munity Roots supporters at the emotional meeting at Brooklyn Technical High School, which was delayed many times by angry United Federation of Teachers demonstrators in the audience.

Tensions erupted last week at a hearing on the charter school plan as well, as a big crowd of Community Roots fans spent two hours extolling their school before PS 287 advocates could even chime in.

The city is big on Community Roots, citing its strong

culture of family and community involvement — despite low grades in school progress reports. Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene), who has slammed charter schools in the past, and Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott have voiced their support for the charter.

Community Roots already operates a charter elementary school inside PS 67 in Fort Greene. Last year, the charter met opposition from PS 67 parents when it tried to expand inside the building.

SWAP...

Continued from page 1
ropos for the moment,” said Fenequito, who designed the Swap-O-Matic as part of her thesis as a technology student at Parsons School of Design in 2005.

“We Americans have a lot of stuff,” she said. “We consume a lot and we waste a lot and I thought this idea was a fun way to comment on and combat overconsumption in our culture.”

The contraption has 13 glass compartments that would-be swappers can fill with items they want to give

away. Each time they hand over an item — whether it’s a pair of nearly new pair of Adidas sneakers or a yo-yo — they earn one credit that can be used to claim items from the Swap-O-Matic’s other cubbies.

First-time users are given three credits to start, all managed by a small monitor on the “Swap-O-Matic,” which uses email addresses to keep track of people’s swapping accounts.

The machine’s sleek, retro look is an homage to the futuristic ideals of the fifties,

said Fenequito, who has been perfecting the design over the past six years.

Like any swap meet worth its musty records, the Swap-O-Matic features occasional duds, such as the plastic spoon available in one cubbie on a recent visit. But for the most part, the machine’s items are at least as good as the free stuff Brooklynites leave up for grabs on their stoops.

“I haven’t actually used it myself,” admitted Fenequito, who lives in Park Slope but said Ample Hills was an ideal home for the piece because of its community feel. “Every time I go there, I see something exciting and I want to save it for somebody else!”

COFFEE...

Continued from page 1

Coffee became the train man after struggling with drug addiction four years ago.

That’s when some women in the neighborhood offered him \$200 if he promised to get his act together. He says he used the money to outfit himself with some warm gear and heavy boots and set about learning the train schedules.

Since then, Coffee has won fans at the Cortelyou Road

station — which does not have an official MTA countdown clock — by doing his job as well, or better, than any electronic sign could.

Every morning, he goes to the Coney Island Q stop to check the schedules and adjust appropriately for any service delays.

“I’m the first one to know of any changes,” he claimed, noting that he calls the MTA whenever anything is amiss to find out what’s going on. “They know me by now. They

say, ‘Who is it,’ and I say, ‘It’s Coffee!’”

Coffee certainly provides a service to straphangers, but it’s unclear if he is in the good graces of the MTA.

An agency spokeswoman said the MTA prohibits panning inside stations and on trains — but Coffee swears he never begs and mainly stays on the sidewalk.

One thing is for sure: he enjoys his role in the hal- lowed Brooklyn ritual that is the daily commute.

“I like this job,” said Coffee. “When the B was running local — it was really moving! It was beautiful.”

CINEMA...

Continued from page 1

the Brooklyn Heights Association. “You can justify preserving that building.”

Neighbors were alarmed this month when The Brooklyn Paper broke the news that landlord Tom Caruana plans to tear down the theater at the corner of Orange Street to make room for a five-story apartment building.

But Caruana unexpectedly canceled a presentation of his

plans at Community Board 2’s Landmarks Committee last week — giving both movie-lovers and preservationists a chance to galvanize their opposition.

“It’s not a dilapidated lot — it adds to the character of the community,” said Dino Mastropietro, who lives behind the twin cinema. “It adds value, and we don’t want to see it go.”

Caruana did not respond

to calls from The Brooklyn Paper, but his architect said their plans for the site are not yet ready to be shared.

Since it was erected in the 1890s, the one-story corner structure has housed a variety of tenants, including a pharmacy and coffee house.

“It’s an intact piece of history,” said architectural historian Francis Morrone, who is working with the Heights Association on an in-depth history of the building. “A major part of what makes Brooklyn Heights what it is is this historical physical fabric.”

The property, which sits on the edge of the Brooklyn Heights historic district, became an independent theater in 1971 and has managed to stay afloat ever since, even while weathering several changes in ownership.

Local musician Kenn Lowy bought the cinema last year from longtime proprietor Norman Adie, who was recently convicted in a Ponzi scheme.

Lowy said that there’s no ill will toward Caruana, who has been honest with his tenant about his future plans for the building.

Lowy has, however, received e-mails from people interested in buying the building.

“There are a lot of people who want to keep it around,” said Lowy, who hopes to find a new home for the theater if the building can’t be saved. “It makes it easier to move forward knowing we have all this support.”

TREES...

Continued from page 1

run comes a few months after a thick pea-soup colored bacterial slime appeared on the lake, cutting off some oxygen to water-dwelling creatures.

That concerns wildlife advocates, who say anything that further depletes those fragile chemical levels is an affront to Brooklyn’s backyard — and its winged and gilled residents.

“All lake life is suffering,” said park watchdog Anne-Katrin Titze. “The lakeside looks like it was hit by a tornado.”

Park spokesman Paul Nelson said the city instructed crews to mulch the trees on-site and to take large ones to a Greenpoint facility to be chipped. But workers ran out of time and were forced to revert to plan B.

Nelson confirmed that the forestry team left one willow tree in the lake.

“The crew was unable to remove the entire tree [because] they started work late in the day, it rained overnight and the ground was too wet to return to the site,” said Nelson, of the Prospect Park Alliance.

Nelson says having trees in the lake can be good for the ecosystem, as they provide nutrients and “shelter to fish, turtles, frogs and birds.”

But nature experts say it isn’t that simple.

“It’s a balance,” said Gross, explaining the way oxygen levels in aquatic environments work. “It’s a lot like sugar: Your body needs a little — but too much is not good.”

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DAM...

Continued from page 1

sewer overflow — a problem so severe that the federal government says its costly clean-up of Gowanus Canal would be a waste if the Bloomberg administration lets it go untreated.

The city's sewerage treatment plants do not have the capacity to process all of the fetid wastewater that flows through sewers during severe downpours, so huge quantities of it spew into Brooklyn waterways.

But city officials hope to find a solution with the help of two synthetic rubber dams, which resemble thick bicycle inner tubes, that were installed in sewer lines at Kent Avenue and S. Fifth Street in Williamsburg and Gold and Plymouth Streets in Vinegar Hill two months ago.

Now when a heavy storm soaks the borough, the dams inflate like airbags to block waves of filthy sewage and rainwater from pouring into the river.

When rain subsides and the wastewater treatment plants are ready, the dams deflate and dirty stormwater heads to sewage plants in Greenpoint and Red Hook.

"We want to store as much as we can, without backing up the system and causing other problems," said Vincent Sapienza of the Department of Environmental Protection.

If the dams work effectively, city officials hope

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

PARENT

Go Giants! Let's keep it clean

L

ike much of New York, I'm caught up in the Giant's post-season run, so next Sunday I'll corral my 14-year-old daughter in front of the TV to watch them play the Patriots in the Super Bowl. I've always tried to share my love of football with my daughters, getting out to the Meadowlands to watch in person when we could. When they become women in the working world, they'll be able to talk the game with the guys, and that's great, but football also offers a way to teach my girls about the stupidity of boys and men when they get together — especially when drinking is involved.

Of course we really go to enjoy the sport. We've had great times — watching big plays and getting caught up in the excitement filling the stadium. But we have also witnessed groups of guys cat-calling and ogling female fans. We've seen a couple of fights, and incidents where signs were ripped up and yellow-coated security swarmed into the seats.

There may be plenty of parents in the stands with their kids, couples young and old who clearly share a joy of the sport, and the excitement of

seeing the game live. But as predictable as the National Anthem, there are always dozens of dudes, loud and sloppy by halftime, swearing at the officials and pointing or whistling at women in the stands.

There are plenty of incidents in the news I've railed against at the dinner table — the men lining the infamous Gate D ramp at Jets games a few years ago, harassing women to show their breasts while stadium security looked on; or the blow-up sex dolls that were batted around the bleachers at Fenway Park in the '90s.

The Dad

By Scott Sager



When we're at a game, though, I'm not trying to stop the bad behavior my girls notice. Rather, I want them to figure out how to avoid or manage situations they may find themselves in some day. I'd like them to get to college knowing not to walk into a frat party with their guard down, understanding how a guy's behavior can change unexpectedly when in the company of his mates and a keg, and realizing when to leave a bar before the atmosphere turns unpleasant.

My older daughter often reminds me that I've never been a teenage girl, as a way of dismissing any advice I might offer. Regarding the manners of men in these situations, I point out she's never been a teen- or college-aged boy, and that I might have some insight she lacks. While I don't want to condemn all men, and women are certainly capable of making senseless choices, there are lessons I hope can be learned by observation, avoiding the unpleasant experiences my daughters might otherwise have.

Sports are a great thing. Both my kids play a number of them, enjoy being active, and like watching the pros compete at the highest level of skill and achievement. Unfortunately, games can also bring out the worst in some players and fans, whether you're at a soccer game in Europe, a hockey match in Canada, or any competition in the U.S. Athletics certainly allow us to watch humans reach heights miraculously beyond physical and emotional limits — but also exhibit some of the lowest behavior of our species. I want my girls to learn from watching both types of conduct. I hope we only see the good stuff in the Giants' game. And that they win, of course.

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SAT, JAN. 28

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lyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

2 pm: Hot Peas 'N Butter. Musical group for children four and up. \$7. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd., between Amersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyn-centeronline.org.



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WHOLE...

Continued from page 1

high-end retail," said Cassandra Weston, who works at the Old American Can Factory, a shared art studio space. "This unique industrial neighborhood needs to be protected."

The mammoth market needs special permission from the city to open a 58,000 square-foot shop on a site currently slated for just 10,000 square feet of commercial space.

But one month before Whole Foods faces its final logistical hurdle at the city's Board of Standards and Appeals, Gowanus locals went on the offensive, claiming the fancy retailer would flood the neighborhood with traffic and set off a development trend that could squash the community's unique mix of businesses and spark a surge in real estate costs.

"It's worth a try, sure," said Bill Appel, Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation executive director. "Every little bit helps, even water retention from rooftops near the Gowanus — but you need consistency."

But not all Brooklyn clean-water advocates are happy with the dam plan.

Artist Deborah Masters,

who proposed a stormwater-absorbing wetland park in Greenpoint last year, called the dams an "expensive, short-term fix" and worried they might break and clog storm drains.

"This inflatable dam system still leaves stormwater dirty to return to sewage treatment plants where the stormwater is stressing the capacity of the sewage treatment plant," said Masters. "The dams have no guarantee that the system won't back up or overflow into rivers during very heavy rain events."

The supermarket has had numerous setbacks including a lengthy delay spent cleaning its toxic lot alongside the fetid Gowanus Canal. Facing criticism from neighbors about its scale and impact on traffic, the store cut back its proposed size by 10,000 square feet and reduced its planned parking lot to accommodate 250 cars instead of 420. It also announced new plans for a rooftop greenhouse that ought to please foodies.

Approval for the supermarket now hangs on a rubber stamp from the Board of Standards and Appeals, which will vote on grocer's request for a variance on Feb. 28.

Out of more than a dozen speakers, only one Gowanus resident spoke in favor of the grocery store during a public hearing in front of the board, claiming Whole Foods has a solid business model that will mesh well with the neighborhood.

"The community will embrace this shop," said Paul Basile of The Gowanus Alliance. "This neighborhood has a little bit of everything."

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CRASH...

Continued from page 1

age released by police indicate that truck driver Leonardo Degianni failed to signal while making a right turn at Meserole Street, the family alleges. Degianni struck Lefevre with the truck's cab and ran him over with a front wheel before dragging the cyclist for 40 feet and his bike for 130 feet.

The trucker, who has claimed he didn't realize he hit anything, left the scene after the collision.

Cops issued two traffic summonses against Degianni for failing to signal and failing to exercise due care, but the Lefevre family is urging Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes to press criminal charges against the trucker for fleeing the scene of an accident or criminal negligence.

"The driver must have known something was wrong," said the family's attorney, Steve Vaccaro. "It is difficult for us to believe that the driver of the truck could drag a bicycle and a body so many feet and run over a body with a front driver's side wheel without knowing it."

The family of the deceased cyclist — a rising star in the North Brooklyn art scene — blasted the NYPD for not collecting evidence including blood observed on the truck's bumper. The Lefevres, who live in Canada, also slammed the police force for including no photos from the crash scene in the case file, but including pictures of relatives of the victim, who have criticized the NYPD for a perceived lax approach to the investigation.

The newly released documents infuriated cycling advocates.

"The NYPD's investigation of Mathieu Lefevre's death shows a disturbing disregard for the loss of life at the hands of dangerous drivers," said Transportation Alternatives spokesman Mike Murphy. "For all New Yorkers to be safe from the threat of dangerous drivers, we need the NYPD to take traffic safety and enforcing the law seriously."

Prosecutors will perform an independent review of Lefevre's death, according to Vaccaro.

A police spokesman declined to comment.

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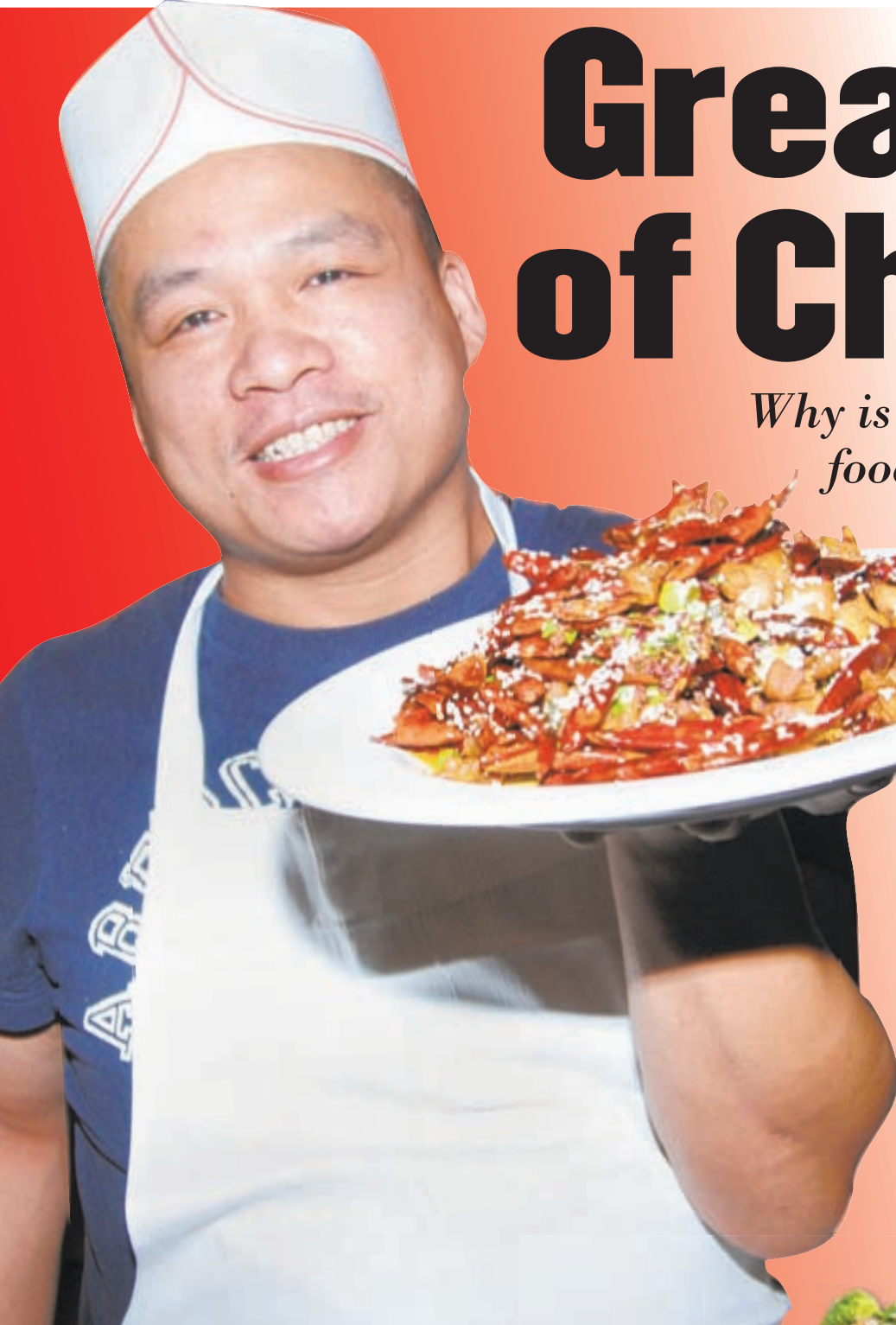
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Searching outside Sunset Park's borders

When we asked our friends and sources where to find good Chinese restaurants outside of Brooklyn's Chinatowns in Sunset Park, Bensonhurst, and Sheepshead Bay, the response was almost universally: "Oh ... I don't know."

Luckily, we've got spies all over the borough who helped us compile a shortlist of Chinese chow worth checking out if you're not willing to make the trek to Brooklyn's Chinese enclaves. They might not be traditional options — in fact, on the contrary — but we'll bet these eats will curb your craving for Szechuan, at least until the next time you find yourself near Eighth Avenue.

Grand Sichuan House

This Bay Ridge staple has two menus — one for takeout, featuring Americanized favorites a la General Tso's Chicken and beef with broccoli; and one for those looking for a traditional dish, one that includes proteins along the lines of jellyfish, tongue, and tripe. Watch out for the peppercorns; they're hot hot hot. Chef David Chan holds the chong qing aromatic chicken, pictured top.

Grand Sichuan House [8701 Fifth Ave. at 87th street in Bay Ridge, (718-680-8887)].

Red Hot

A Brownstone Brooklyn favorite, Red Hot specializes in fast, tasty Szechuan cuisine, which means dark sauces and hot, spicy flavors. But the hottest thing about this restaurant is undisputably its location. Right smack dab in the middle of Park Slope, Red Hot is your best bet for predictable, reliable Chinese that's cheap, quick and close by.

Red Hot Szechuan [347 Seventh Ave. between 10th and 11th streets in Park Slope, (718) 369-2577].

Yen Yen Chinese Restaurant

This Chinese joint isn't just known for its food



— it also offers campy, well-priced and tasty drinks. We like this place because it serves old-school cocktails sush as a mai tai — complete with brightly colored paper tropical umbrellas perched in the glass; it makes us feel like we're in the 1960s, and it's Christmas eve.

Yen Yen Chinese Restaurant [404 Church Ave. at E. Fourth Street in Flatbush/Ditmas Park, (718) 633-8711].

M. Shanghai Noodle

First things first: this resto bills itself as a Chinese "bistro," so you should know ahead of time what you're dealing with. It's not authentic, and it's not trying to be. It is, however, pretty delicious. The noodles are hand-pulled and tender, but the real draw is the soup dumplings, mostly because they're hard to come by in North Brooklyn. A plus: there are six varieties of soup dumpling to choose from — even one for your vegan pals (because remember, we're in Williamsburg).

292 Grand St. between Roebling and Havemeyer streets in Williamsburg, (718) 384-9300].

By Juliet Linderman
The Brooklyn Paper

The Year of the Dragon is supposed to be a fruitful and auspicious year, according to the Chinese Zodiac — and plenty of brownstone Brooklyn foodies are hoping some of that luck goes toward improving their neighborhoods' dismal Chinese food offerings.

It's true: Brooklyn boasts a hot, spicy, and vibrant Chinese food scene in Sunset Park, known for hole-in-the-wall noodle shops like Yun Nan Flavor Snack Shop, banquet-style meccas like Lucky Eight, and fish-ball-hawkers like the Kalaka Cafe. But in the northern parts of the borough, there's a devastating dearth of everything from pot stickers to pork buns.

Chinese restaurants in neighborhoods like Park Slope, Cobble Hill and Williamsburg have, for the most part, remained dreary, uninspiring delivery joints while their culinary neighbors have surged, gaining praise in the hometown press and beyond.

As is the case with most everything in the city, the problem with Chinese food in Brooklyn comes down to real estate, according to Brooklyn-based food writer Ya Roo Yang, who has written extensively on Asian cuisine for publications including the New York Times, Edible and Chow.

"If you want authentic at a reasonable price point, then it all has to do with the immigration pattern and real estate prices," said Ya Roo Yang. "Most authentic Chinese food tends to cater towards the immigrant population (legal or otherwise) and they tend to live in the outer boroughs where the rent is cheap and there is already an established community."

Inside these immigrant enclaves, like Sunset Park's Eighth Avenue, Bensonhurst's Avenue U and Sheepshead Bay

See **CHINESE** on page 10

THEATER

'Arab' spring

A French theater company and Fort Greene's Irondale Center will bring the tumultuous world of Middle Eastern politics to life in "An Arab in My Mirror," a provocative drama that examines the region's recent strife — as well its troubled past — through the eyes of barbers, policemen, tourists and other everyday people in countries such as Egypt and Tunisia.

"We want to show what it feels like to live through these historical events," said the play's artistic director Phillipe Vincent, who also plays a starring role in the 75-minute production.

The play, which features Irondale Ensemble actress Scarlet Maressa Rivers, dramatizes stories of survival from the Iraq War, the Egyptian revolution and other violent uprisings over the past 50 years — events that Irondale's Executive Director Terry Greiss said should spark a lively discussion across the borough.

"We're always looking for things that speak to what's happening right now," said Greiss. "This play is a bit of a risk, but it falls within the type of conversation we want to have with our audience."

"An Arab in My Mirror," at the Irondale Center [85 South Oxford St. between Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene, (718) 488-1985]. Feb. 1–Feb. 10, 8 pm. Tickets, \$25. For info, visit www.irondale.org.

— Daniel Bush

BOOKS

Tea time

Remember that overachieving bookworm from college whom you teased relentlessly about never becoming a successful author?

She's done pretty well for herself.

Wonderkind writer Tea Obreht will lead a discussion about her 2010 National Book Award-nominated book, "The Tiger's Wife," on Feb. 9 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, as part of the institution's "Eat, Drink, and Be Literary" dinner series.

Obreht's magical realist book, which follows a young doctor's relationship with her grandfather and his adventures in the Balkans, has earned her accolades from around the world.

"We're very proud to be presenting Tea Obreht," said BAM Humanities Manager Violaine Huisman. "Tea's fiction is worldly, innovative and adventurous, and it represents in literature what BAM stands for on its stages."

Tea Obreht at Brooklyn Academy of Music Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene (718) 636-4139]. Feb. 9, 6 pm. Tickets, \$50. For info, visit www.bam.org.

— Aaron Short

MUSIC

Jarmusch jam

Call him Jim Jam-musch.

Famous director and guitarist Jim Jarmusch will join his unlikely partner in musical crime Jozef Van Wissem, a Greenpoint-based avant garde lute player, to celebrate the release of the duo's brand new album, "Concerning the Entrance Into Eternity," at Issue Project Room in Downtown on Feb. 3.

Jarmusch, the mad genius behind "Coffee and Cigarettes," and "Broken Flowers," who in the early 1980s was in a new wave band called the Del-Byzantees, is the canny guitarist who plays counterpoint to Van Wissem's delicate chords, shaping vast tonal landscapes that amble through styles such as ambient acoustic and drone metal.

The pair has played a couple shows around town, and Jarmusch made an appearance on Van Wissem's 2011 album "The Joy That Never Ends" — but this upcoming show marks the duo's first as an official band with an album.

Van Wissem said that Jarmusch — who is known as much for his white, light-socket-styled hairdo as he is for his esoteric and haunting films — is not enigmatic or aloof, despite popular belief.

"He's not a weirdo," he said.

Jozef Van Wissem and Jim Jarmusch record release party at Issue Project Room [110 Livingston St. between Boerum Place and Court Street in Downtown (718) 330-0313]. Feb. 3, 7:30 pm, Tickets, — Dan MacLeod

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SUNDAY January 29	FRIDAY February 3	SATURDAY February 4	SUNDAY February 5	MONDAY February 6
 <h3>Feminist journalism</h3> <p>The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art is coming into town, showcasing the early years of writer and women's rights advocate Djuna Barnes' journalistic career. The gallery features 45 pieces that include photographs, drawings, and Barnes' stories in newsprint.</p> <p>11 am. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000]. \$12 suggested donation, for info, visit www.brooklynmuseum.org</p>	<h3>Hell on earth</h3> <p>A Park Slope sculptor who welds creepy-cool creatures from hell will showcase her (un)heavenly art exhibition in DUMBO. Martha Walker — whose morbid Tim Burton-esque sculptures have appeared in episodes of "Gossip Girl" — will "explore personal demons" through her molten steel and copper statues, some of which are seven feet tall and include pointy-toothed beasts, eerie rawboned ravens and scary sea monsters.</p> <p>6 pm. From Demons to Daybreak [111 Front St., Gallery 256, between Washington and Adams streets in DUMBO, (718) 422-0555]. Free.</p> 	 <h3>Grease lightning</h3> <p>Have a stockpile of palm-aid you're dying to get rid of, or a closet full of poodle-skirts you haven't worn in ages? There's a sing-along just for you, where fans of the classic school yard musical "Grease" are invited to sing, dance, and dress up as their favorite T-Bird and Pink Lady as the film plays in the background. "It's an interactive movie show," said the event's co-creator Jerm Pollet.</p> <p>9 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6310]. \$12, for info visit www.thebellhousesny.com.</p>	<h3>The funny foreigner</h3> <p>"The Foreigner" is a comedy set in a fishing lodge in rural Georgia, where pathologically shy Charlie Baker pretends to be a foreigner from an exotic far-away land in order to avoid conversation with a hodgepodge of visitors. Under the impression that Charlie can't understand English, the various guests divulge a host of lurid secrets.</p> <p>2 pm. The Heights Players [26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 963-3369]. \$10, for info, visit www.brooklynbowl.com</p> 	 <h3>True or false?</h3> <p>In the spirit of "Ripley's Believe It or Not," this storytelling series seamlessly mixes memoir and fiction. The show features six story tellers, each telling a true tale or a lie; the audience is charged with deciding what's real and what's make believe. The next show, themed "this is how we do it," is focused around tales of culture and custom.</p> <p>8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union Ave. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. Free, for info visit www.unionhallny.com</p>

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JAN. 27

WORKSHOP, FUN FRIDAYS: Children get together with friends and play video games and read. **Free.** 4 pm. Eastern Parkway Public Library [1044 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 778-9330], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

SAT, JAN. 28

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, CELEBRATION OF ORCHESTRAL MUSIC: Amelia Robinson & her electric ukulele present a symphony of musical guests in the Mill's Trills Philharmonic premiere. \$10. 3 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

OTHER

CITIZENSHIP PREP: For immigrants planning on applying for US citizenship. Registration required. **Free.** 10:30 am–1:30 pm and 1:30 pm–4:30 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100], www.ymcany.org.

FILM, "INDEX OF MALADJUSTMENT": \$9 suggested donation. 7:30 pm. Union Docs [322 Union Ave. between Majur and Ten Eyck streets in Williamsburg, (347) 820-3213], www.uniondocs.org.

SUN, JAN. 29

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Brooklyn Philharmonic joined by Deborah Buck featuring the music of Brahms, Szymanowski, Grieg. \$15 (\$10 members). 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

OTHER

BRUNCH WITH NJ BURKETT: Meet the WABC-TV news correspondent. \$18 (\$15 for members). 11 am. Congregation Mount Sinai [250 Cadman Plaza W. at Tillary Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 875-9124], www.congregationmountsinai.org.

LIVE MUSIC AND AN AUCTION FOR VETERANS: Fundraiser for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. 1 pm–midnight. Pour House of Bay Ridge [7901 3rd Ave. between 79th and 80th streets in Bay Ridge, (917) 685-2988].

TALK, FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: "Everything You Want to Know About Transmedia Storytelling But Are Afraid To Ask," is a lecture featuring five artists, game designers and storytellers. \$9 suggested donation. 4 pm. Union Docs [322 Union Ave. between Majur and Ten Eyck streets in Williamsburg, (347) 820-3213], www.uniondocs.org.

MON, JAN. 30

WORKSHOP, COMPUTER BASICS: Adults learn basic skills. No experience necessary. **Free.** 1 pm. Eastern Parkway Public Library [1044 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 778-9330], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

BEGINNER'S ESL: Students learn basic structure and vocabulary and communicating in English. Registration required. **Free.** 6:15 to 9:15 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100], www.ymcany.org.

OPEN REHEARSALS: Brooklyn's Sweet Adelines Barbershop Chorus welcomes singers of all voice ranges. **Free.** 7:30 PM. Call for location, (718) 833-3399.

MUSIC, BUGS IN THE DARK: With Steer, Bambara and Shark? \$5. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe

TUE, JAN. 31

Community Board 15, Monthly meeting; January 31, 7 pm; Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Blvd. at Decatur Avenue; (718) 332-3008.

WED, FEB. 1

Bay Ridge Council on Aging, Monthly meeting; February 1, 10 am; St. Ephrem's Church, 929 Fort Hamilton Pkwy. between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway; (718) 921-5949.

THUR, FEB. 2

Community Education Council

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Calendar@cnglocal.com

MON, JAN. 30

tion required. **Free.** 6:15 to 9:15 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100], www.ymcany.org.

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TUES, JAN. 31

BEGINNER'S ESL: 6:15 pm–9:15 pm. See Monday, Jan. 30.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Pianist Simone Dinnerstein. \$15. 7 pm. PS 321 (180 Seventh Ave. at First Street in Park Slope), www.neighborhoodclassics.com.

WED, FEB. 1

WORKSHOP, HOMEWORK HELP: Children get after school help with assignments. **Free.** 4:30 pm. Eastern Parkway Public Library [1044 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 778-9330], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

WORKSHOP, TANGO LESSONS: For adults and youngsters interested in ballroom dancing. No experience and no partners necessary. Sponsored by the FIAO Beacon program. Pre-registration for youngsters required. **Free.** 6 pm–9 pm. IS 96 [99 Ave. P at W, 11th Street in Bensonhurst, (718) 232-2266].

BEGINNER'S ESL: 6:15 to 9:15 pm. See Monday, Jan. 30.

READING, TOURE: Commentator and journalist reads from his new book "Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness? What It Means to be Black Now." **Free.** 7 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.


READING, SARA LEVINE: Author of "Treasure Island!!!". **Free.** 7 pm. WORD [126 Franklin Street between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.word-brooklyn.com.

READING, ADAM JOHNSON: Author of "The Orphan Master's Son." **Free.** 7:30 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

READING, DAVE ISAY: Author of "Listening is an Act of Love." **Free.** 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER": An evening of short plays about cults. 8:30 pm. Triskelion Arts [118 N. 11th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (917) 270-7279], www.PanickedProductions.com.

See 9 DAYS on page 10



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Listed:
SRDS

Talde is tops!

New Asian joint from ‘Top Chef’ star

By Sarah Zorn
for The Brooklyn Paper

We were already fans of Bravo’s “Top Chef Season 4” and “All-Stars” contestant Dale Talde going in — a fact we tried hard not to convey when interviewing him about Talde, his new Asian-fusion eatery on Seventh Avenue and 11th Street in Park Slope.

Yet, while witty one-liners, a boyish smile, and the ability to whip up a winning

dish using ingredients and supplies rummaged from a Target megastore proved to be a recipe for success onscreen — it doesn’t necessarily translate to good eats in real life.

So does the actual restaurant measure up to its reality television trappings? These are the reasons we’ll never tell Talde to pack his knives and go.

His name is on the door, but he refuses to be the star

When your business part-

ners are John Bush and David Massoni from the highly respected Thistle Hill Tavern, you’re already ahead of the game. That’s why — even though he rules his kitchen with an iron whisk — Talde knows better than to meddle with front-of-house affairs.

“What I like so much about the partnership here is that it’s a very even split,” Talde said. “I take care of the back of house, David takes care

DINING

Talde [369 Seventh Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope, (347) 916-0031].

of the front of house, John is in charge of the bar. We own our responsibilities and get them done.”

The food is top drawer, the space is sexy, the cocktails are slammin’ — but the restaurant still feels like your corner Cantonese place

Notoriety may draw the pretty people to Talde’s place at first, but he insists that’s not what it’s about.

“Something ‘Top Chef’ taught me is to not get caught up in a concept or technique or how it looks on a plate,” Talde



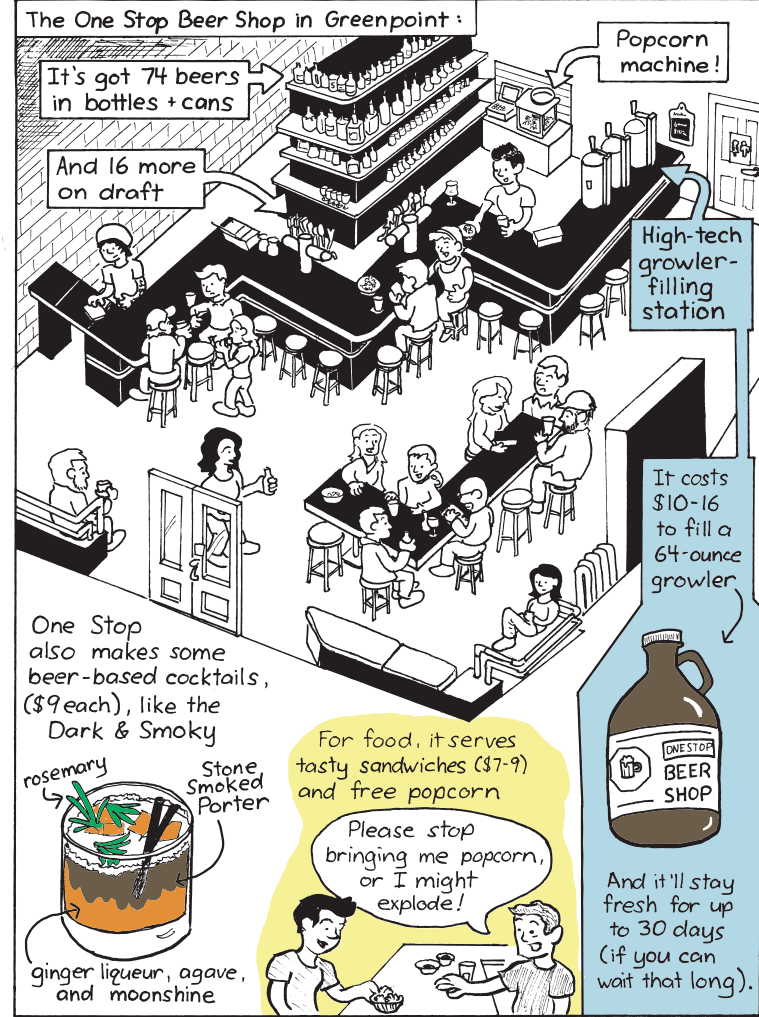
Standing Talde: (Pictured clockwise from left) Chef Dale Talde, a “Top Chef” all-star, sports an eponymous hat at his new restaurant in Park Slope. Shrimp toast, Long Island Fluke.



Photos by Jess Adler

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy



One Stop Beer Shop [134 Kingsland Ave. at Beadel Street in Greenpoint, (718) 599-0128]. Open Sun-Wed, 1 pm-2 am; Thu-Sat, 1 pm-4 am. For more info, visit <http://onestopbeershopny.com>.

Slope food gossip

Get your hot, juicy food news here!



Foodie-in-Chief
By Sarah Zorn

From small plates to pit steaks to pinots to pizza, Park Slope’s in the limelight this week with a windfall of food-lovers gossip!

Rub the right way

Where’s the (barbecued) beef? All over Union Street! Fort Reno Provisions — a porky new project from Palo Santo’s Jacques Gautier — has settled its smoker into the spot recently vacated by Mama Rosa Latin Bistro. Expect whole hogs, brisket, and ribs by the pound from the jumping joint — all sourced from the socially conscious supplier Heritage Foods USA. This is Park Slope, after all.

‘Cue times two

Talk about a wealth of rib-sucking riches! Blogger Ben Popken reports that upstate import, Dinosaur BBQ, will also be bringing baby-backs to the same 600 block of Union Street. Big news for any smoked meat aficionado for sure, but for a Syracuse University alum-turned Brooklyn food



The Brooklyn Paper / Claire Glass

Thistle takeover: David Massoni, pictured outside of his restaurant, the Thistle Hill Tavern, is poised to open a new resto in Park Slope, — and it’s making all of brownstone Brooklyn’s mouths water.

writer, it’s Christmas come early. Go Orange!

In the mix

Holy guacamole! In a surprising quick-change act, Barrio — a Mex-

ican eatery off of Third Street — has transformed into Mix, a globe-trotting small plates place. Maybe we didn’t learn to share properly in Kindergarten, but we’re so not keen on this craze — if we’re plunk-

ing down \$9 for a mini-tasting of crispy calamari, we’re eating the whole thing.

Thistle spill

It’s been an exciting few weeks for restaurateur David Massoni — he’s just anointed a new head chef at Slope fave Thistle Hill Tavern (good luck to Buttermilk Channel alum Jon Wallace — just don’t lose those salt and pepper fries!), his newest project, Talde, opened to critical acclaim, and he just let it slip to us that he’s got yet another restaurant in the works. If we’re still on the Top Chef collabo track, our vote is for Fabio Viviani!

Fran-fare

An abandoned Blockbuster at 348 Flatbush Ave. is about to get all sorts of delicious. Grub Street reports that come November, beloved pizza haven Franny’s will relocate into the double-wide space (they plan to transform their old place into a more traditional Italian restaurant called Marco’s). What to expect from the reboot? Two brick ovens, a private dining room, lunch and takeout service, and more clamoring hordes than ever before.

Land Ho

Eater confirms that an outpost of Terror — a lauded Manhattan wine bar from accomplished chef Marco Canora — is moving into the old Great Lakes space on 284 Fifth Ave. Ok, let’s recap. Two spanking new ‘cue joints. A super-sized Franny’s. One Massoni resto opened and one in the works. And now a world-class wine bar? Park Slope is definitely having the Best Week. Ever.

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It's a Cannes for kids!

Brooklyn goes avant garde at children's film festival

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

This short film will get your kid to eat his vegetables — and ponder the nature of the universe! “Wetessen” (“Chow down”), which will screen on Feb. 4 for the first time in the United States as part of the BAMKids Film Festival, is a chaotic and cacophonous short film from Germany that features angry vegetable-masked mimes that even its creator called, a bit “dada-istic.”

“You could make your own interpretations [of the film,]” said first-time director and longtime musician Burkhard Finckh. “[But] being hungry and eating is something every kid knows on this planet, so they will understand!”

The four minute-long film — which combines stop-motion photography, claymation, carrot-faced mimes, cardboard cutouts, and illustrations made with condiments, along with soundtrack of sounds made with household items from Burkhard’s own kitchen — channels the entropy and irrationality that characterized Dadaism, the avant garde art movement popularized by artists like Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray in the aftermath of World War I.

The funky soundtrack’s German lyrics are essentially a grocery list of popular foods, beginning with sausage and ending with chocolate mousse, punctuated by a chorus of “chow, chow, chow, chow.”

Modernist moms and dads need not worry, either — this film isn’t only for the young dadaists in the



house.

“It’s supposed to be a film for everyone, not only for children,” said Finckh, who made the film to accompany the music, which he recorded several years ago.

The surreal short will air as part of “Animation Nations,” a program with ten films from as many countries — including “Monarch” from Mexico, and “Happy Birthday” from Korea — all selected by BAM for being particularly fun and thought-

provoking.

“I call it ‘Cannes for kids,’” said Nicole Dreiske, the executive director of the International Children’s Media Center and curator of the festival. She selected her favorite films after sorting through more than 5,000 submissions, with the help of a few of Brooklyn’s most sophisticated youngsters. “Kids really have a feel for good films, you’d be really surprised.”

And these discerning kid-cine-



Feast your eyes: Claymation eggs spin in a real pan on a real turntable in the dadaist children’s short “Wetessen,” that will screen at BAM on Feb. 4-5. The four-minute long children’s short “Wetessen” is a dadaist mix of claymation, stop-motion filming, and vegetable-masked mimes, pictured left. Nothing a 7-year-old Brooklynite can’t handle.

philes even have their own movie awards: children — no adults allowed — will vote for their favorites in four categories; the winners will receive a coveted “BAMmie.”

Be sure to keep your eye on the victors.

Last year, the winner of the best animated short category, “Marcel the Shell with Shoes On,” went on to become a viral internet sensation that yielded a popular children’s book.

“Animation Nations” at the BAMKids Film Festival [30 Lafayette Ave. between St. Felix Street and Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4139] Feb. 4-5, 10:15am. Tickets \$9 for kids 12 and under, \$12 for adults. For info, visit www.bam.org.

CHINESE..

Continued from page 7

along 86th Street and Bay Parkway, there’s plenty of great Chinese food.

But in parts of the borough with fewer Chinese residents, simple economics forces restaurateurs to make blander food.

“Outside of these communities, authentic Chinese food can’t gather enough customers to survive,” said Ya Roo Yang. “The restaurant owner must cater to everyone else, so Chinese food becomes diluted to have mass appeal.”

That said, detemining what’s “authentic” can be harder than choosing whether to order steamed dumplings or fried dumplings.

With more than a dozen discrete varieties from different parts of the country — not to mention Americanized versions of Chinese cuisine — it can be hard to define the difference between Chinese food and real Chinese food.

“There are dozens of types of Chinese food, and the most delicious items don’t appear on lists you often see,” said Jeff Yang, a columnist for the Wall Street Journal and media consultant for Iconoclast, a firm that targets Asian consumers. “There’s no General Tso’s Chicken — you can’t do that if you open that type of restaurant where the majority of the population is not only not from your part of China, but not from China at all.”

He claims that the much-maligned Chinese eateries that are ubiquitous in Brownstone Brooklyn would seem foreign if they were actually located in China.

“[That] weird mix of Sichuan, Hunan and American that you would never recognize in China; that Chinese food is as American as ap-

ple pie,” he said.

Many immigrants pursue the American dream by opening restaurants when they arrive in the country, but their children aren’t always interested in continuing the business.

“Second-generation Chinese will be more educated than their parents who own a restaurant,” said John Jung, author of “Sweet and Sour: Life in Chinese Family Restaurants.” “They have college degrees, and maybe they grew up helping out in the restaurant but afterwards, they have better ways of earning a living.”

But the children of immigrant restaurateurs who do stay in the restaurant business might be Brownstone Brooklyn’s only hope, approaching Chinese cooking with a greater awareness of American food trends and a broader understanding — and willingness to challenge — the tastes of a borough-wide clientele.

Late last year, Melissa and Eric Har, both first-generation Americans born of Chinese immigrants, opened a Chinese restaurant on N. 6th Street in Williamsburg called The Wok Shop.

Melissa grew up in a Chinese restaurant her father owned in Manhattan’s Chinatown, where she worked as a clerk since the age of 14. In Williamsburg, though, she and her husband — who graduated from culinary school — are going in a different direction.

“We opened a Chinese restaurant because we wanted Chinese food and couldn’t find any outside of Chinatown,” Melissa said. “We want it to be better for you, healthier for you.”

“It isn’t authentic,” Eric added. “I come from an Italian cooking background. But it’s from my memories; it’s Chinese food through the lens of a Chinese-American.”

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

THURS, FEB. 2

WORKSHOP, CROCHET:

Adults meet every week and work on their projects. 2 pm. Midwood Public Library [975 E. 16th St. between Avenues J and I in Midwood, (718) 252-0967], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

BEGINNER’S ESL: 6:15 to 9:15 pm. See Monday, Jan. 30.

READING, MARYLYN DINTENFASS: Author of “Parallel Park.” **Free.** 6:30 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

READING, SAEED JONES: Author of “When the Only Light is Fire.” **Free.** 7 pm. WORD [126 Franklin Street between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.word-brooklyn.com.

THEATER, “FOLLOW THE LEADER”: 8:30 pm. See Wednesday, Feb. 1.

FRI, FEB. 3

WORKSHOP, FUN FRIDAYS: 4 pm. See Friday, Jan. 27.

MUSIC, FRANCIS MBAPPE AND FM TRIBE: **Free.** 8 pm. BAMCafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], www.bam.org.

THEATER, “FOLLOW THE LEADER”: 8:30 pm. See Wednesday, Feb. 1.

SAT, FEB. 4

PERFORMANCE

DANCE, “SMALL STEPS, TINY REVOLUTIONS,” DANCE SHOW: Presented by RIOULT. **Free.** 3 pm. Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Decatur Avenue in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5000], www.kingsborough.edu.

MUSIC, F. STOKES: **Free.** 8 pm. BAMCafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], www.bam.org.

THEATER, “FOLLOW THE LEADER”: 8:30 pm. See Wednesday, Feb. 1.

OTHER

TAX HELP: 9 pm–11:30 am. See Thursday, Feb. 2.

CITIZENSHIP PREP: 10:30 am–1:30 pm and 1:30–4:30 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 28.

FILM, BAMKIDS FILM FESTIVAL: Festival showcases 73 films from 26 countries — including New York, US, and world premieres. \$12 (\$9 for children under 12). 10:30 am–all day. BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

READING, COLSON WHITEHEAD: Author shares excerpts from his book “Zone One.” **Free.** 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library’s Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.



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Geek chic: Nerdy troubadour Jonathan Coulton will provide an impromptu soundtrack for the gut-busting show. Pictured right, comedian Ophira Eisenberg, the host of “Ask Me Another.”

A trivial pursuit

New live NPR game show tests pop-culture wits

By Kate Briquelet
The Brooklyn Paper

What’s the Luftballoons plus the Dalmatians, divided by Ali Baba’s thieves?

Want to take a guess? Check out an upcoming live taping of “Ask Me Another,” NPR’s brand new game show that is waging a battle of pop-culture wits at the Bell House this spring — and inviting contestants for a free hour of trivia, mystery guests and improv shenanigans.

“There is so much that NPR does that is serious,” said Eric Nuzum, an award-winning news writer who developed the program. “Sometimes it’s nice to have fun, smart escapism. We don’t shoot for funny — we shoot for fun.”

The rollicking radio show launched its three-month residency at the Gowanus bar on Jan. 23, and each broadcast will have a fresh set of puzzles.



Host comedian Ophira Eisenberg tests eager beavers with games such as “Better than Bieber” (contestants fill in the blanks for Justin’s songs) and “Replacement Math”

(the total number of Brontë sisters plus the Marx Brothers).

And Geeky singer Jonathan Coulton http://www.brooklynpaper.com/stories/34/39/24_coulton_2011_9_16_bk.html wails a spontaneous musical score as contestants approach the bare stage — and as local celebs such as David Cross emerge after high-stakes guessing games.

Eisenberg has already begun goading future contenders: the borough’s wonky and web-savvy information explorers.

“We all are walking around with our phones, Googling things, full of information,” she said. “Why don’t you all come to the Bell House and see how you do?”

“Ask Me Another” will host 10 live recordings at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], Feb. 6 through April 23. For info, visit www.thebellhouse.nyc.com or follow @NPRAskMeAnother.

All the tiny dancers

Kids star in a modern dance performance

By Juliet Linderman
for The Brooklyn Paper

Some revolutions are small — but that doesn’t mean they aren’t powerful.

Choreographer Pascal Rioult will put 30 public school children from across the borough onstage with his fleet of world-renowned dancers in a dreamy, modern interpretation of classic children’s fairy tales called “Small Steps, Tiny Revolutions,” at Kingsborough Community College on Feb. 4.

“We put them onstage, and they look like they belong there,” Rioult said. “It’s amazing how much kids can accomplish when their hearts and minds are in it.”

The first section of the two-part performance tells the story of a young boy, embodied by 12-year-old Chase Sutton, who retreats into the world of his imagination — where animals run wild in the forest — in order to pursue his love of dance after his father announces that it is an inappropriate hobby for a young boy. The second segment, entitled “Fables,” is a re-imag-



Fairy tales: Pascal Rioult’s dance theater production, “Small Steps, Tiny Revolutions,” comes to Kingsborough Community College on Feb. 4.

ing of five classic children’s stories that impart lessons such as patience, acceptance and respect.

This show is the third performance in a series that incorporates kids from various public schools, where Rioult and his company conduct five-week movement seminars and workshops, called DanceREACH. It is the first

in a two-year, five-borough arts-in-education tour; each borough’s performance will feature more than a dozen students from local elementary schools, in an effort to inspire and empower children, while exposing them to the dynamic world of modern dance.

But don’t be fooled: this show isn’t kid’s stuff.

“I’m a serious choreog-

rapher and artist, and my goal was not to talk down to the children,” Rioult said. “They’re very smart.”

Rioult’s “Small Steps, Tiny Revolutions,” at Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Decatur Avenue in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5148], Feb. 4, 3 pm, free. For info, visit www.kbcc.cuny.edu.

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charcoal grilled whole calamari with olive oil, lemon and oregano

Main Course (choice of)

kota sta karvouna

grilled free range chicken breast with lemon dressing over rice pilaf

lavraki

grilled whole Greek sea bass with herbs, lemon and extra virgin olive oil

paidakia skaras

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NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 01/18/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000050-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Ria (Last) Bhagwandin. My present name is (First) Reeya (Last) Mohamed. My present address is 626 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207. My place of birth is Guyana. My date of birth is August 08, 1992.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 01/20/2012 bearing in-

dex NC-000057-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Omer (Middle) Itzhak (Last) Lesser-Sazir. My present name is (First) Omer (Middle) Itzhak (Last) Lesser-Sazir. My present address is 1 Northside Piers, Brooklyn, NY 11249. My place of birth is Jerusalem, Israel. My date of birth is may 02, 1974

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 01/20/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000058-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Felipe (Middle) Miguel (Last) Lesser-Sazir. My present name is (First) Felipe (Middle) Miguel (Last) Lesser AKA Felipe M Lesser. My present address is 1 Northside Piers, Brooklyn, NY 11249. My place of birth is Santiago, Chile. My date of birth is September 30, 1960.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK Index No. 112075/2011 Date Purchased: 10/24/2011 SUMMONS WITH NOTICE Plaintiff designates New York County as the place of trial Basis of venue: Location of defendant's bank account. RYSZARD KRUYNSKI, Plaintiff, against WIESLAW KRUYNSKI Defendant ACTION FOR RECOVERY OF FRAUDULENTLY TRANSFERRED AND MISAPPROPRIATED FUNDS To the above-named Defendant YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to show cause on February 01, 2012, Part 13, Room 307 located at 80 Centre Street, New York, New York, at 9:30

a.m. The service of this summons is complete and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below. Dated: New York, New York, November 23, 2011 SEGAL GEBSKI, PLLC, By: David Kuznia, Esq., Plaintiffs Attorney, 410 Park Ave., 16th floor New York, NY 10022, 212-244-2805. NOTICE: To the above-named Defendant, the above Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Manuel J. Mendez, a Justice of the Supreme Court, County of New York dated the 23rd day of November, 2011. The nature of this action is recover plaintiff's funds that were fraudulently transferred and misappropriated to defendant's bank account by defendant without the permission of plaintiff. The relief sought is a judgment in favor of the Plaintiff in the amount of \$263,663.02 plus costs, disbursements, interest and attorney fees and for removal of funds from Defendant's bank account located at Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, 108 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003, to be rightfully returned to Plaintiff's possession.

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